

The War Fifty Years Ago

Federal Bombardment and Capture of Fort Pulaski, the Guardian of the Harbor of Savannah, Ga.—Stout Walls Demolished by Rifled Cannon—Opening of the Peninsula Campaign—Operations Before Yorktown. The Army of the Potomac Balloon Corps at the Front. Balloon Reconnoissances by Generals and Staff Officers—General Fitz-John Porter in a Runaway. A Confederate Balloon—Fall of Island No. 10.

By Captain GEORGE L. KILMER, Late U. S. V.

JUST one year after the bombardment and reduction of Sumter by the Confederate forces Fort Pulaski, Ga., was bombarded and reduced by the Federal forces. This work was of construction similar to Fort Sumter, having brick walls seven and a half feet thick and twenty-five feet high. It was on Cockspur Island and commanded all the channels leading up to the harbor of Savannah. At the opening of the war it was seized by the Confederate authorities and garrisoned by 385 men under command of Colonel Charles H. Olmstead. It mounted forty heavy guns, which protected blockade runners and kept out Federal vessels.

Heavy Federal Batteries.

Soon after the capture of Fort Royal in the fall of 1891 General Q. A. Gillmore, U. S. A., reported that it was possible to plant batteries of rifled guns and mortars on Tybee Island and also on Jones Island, with which he

until the preliminaries were adjusted. This was accorded him, and an interview of an hour took place, at which only himself and General Gillmore were present.

"The terms of the capitulation having been settled, General Gillmore was shown over the fort by the colonel and then took his leave. Messengers from General Hunter had meantime arrived. These, together with General Gillmore's aid, made the rounds of the fort under the escort of Colonel Olmstead, who introduced us to his officers and were the only persons present when the swords were delivered.

"Major Halpine, as the representative of General Hunter, received the weapons. The ceremony was performed in the colonel's headquarters, all standing. It was just at dark, and the candles gave only a half light. The weapons were laid on a table, each officer advancing in turn, according to his rank, and mentioning his name and title. Nearly every one added some remark. The colonel's was dignified

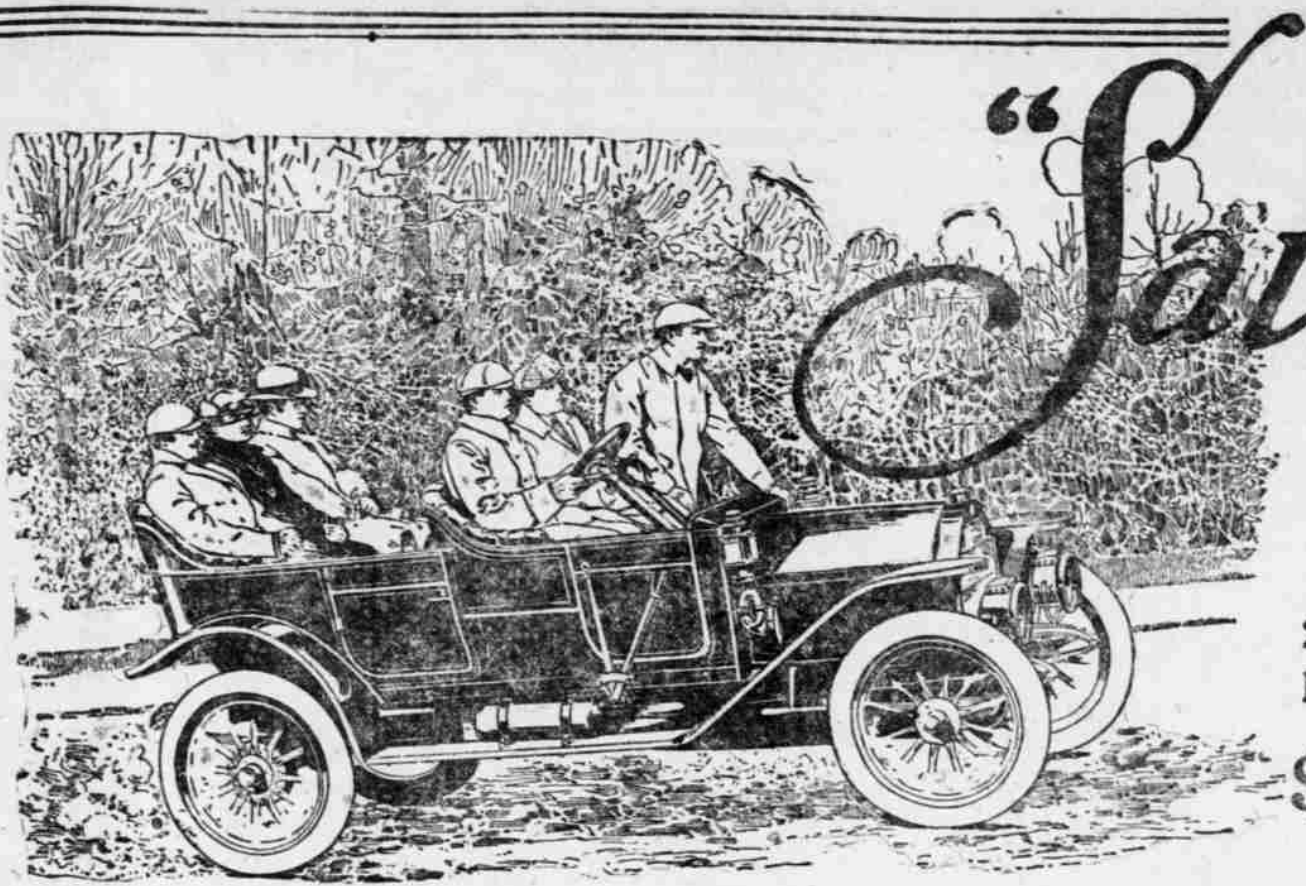
near Lee's mills. Here the Federal forces had thrown up a considerable work, with wings for riflemen. In which guns were mounted. The Confederate works rested on the outskirts of a pine forest, while the Federals were in the center of the field. The forest extended like a curtain across the north edge of the field.

Reconnoitering by Balloon.

For the work of scouting and locating the enemy's positions a captive balloon was brought into regular use. The balloon corps organized by Professor T. S. C. Lowe had now become an adjunct of the Army of the Potomac.

A balloon which Professor Lowe had with great difficulty brought up the peninsula from Fortress Monroe by wagon was taken to the front with the advance troops. Lowe ascended at 3 a. m. on the 6th and remained up until after daylight, observing the camps and movements of the Confederates. On descending he was ordered by General Fitz-John Porter, the director of the siege, to ascend and "look for the movement of wagons and also where the largest number of men are. Send word what is passing as soon as you can."

Lowe related what he had already seen and asked the general to go up with him. This Porter did and remained up nearly two hours at the height of 1,000 feet, within one mile of the Confederate works. Later some draftsmen went up; also the Count of Paris, who was serving on General McClellan's staff. Ascensions were made every day by generals, staff officers and engineers. On the 11th General Porter went up alone. Lowe was absent, and his orders that three or four retaining ropes should be used were not observed. There was but



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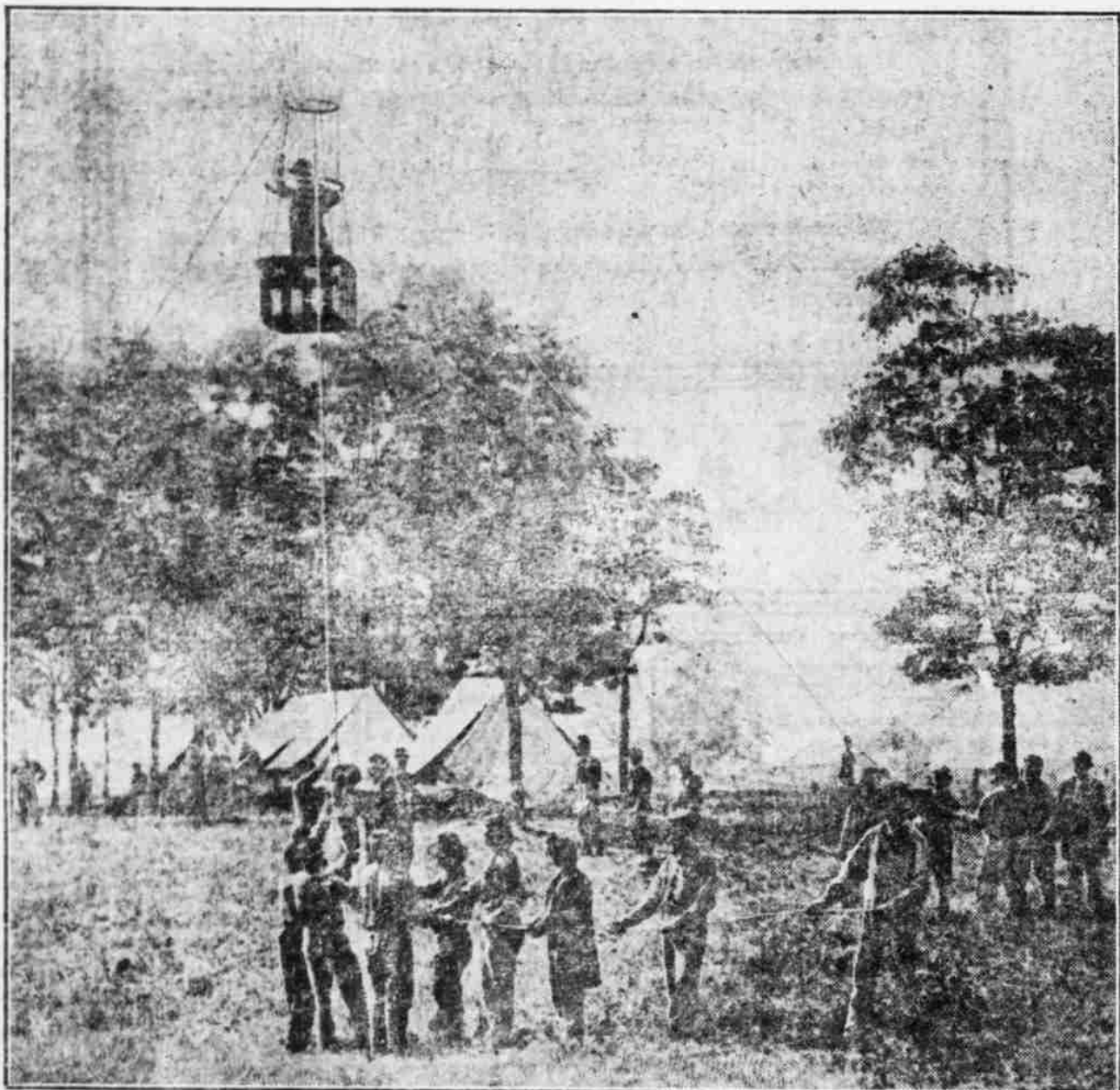
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ARMY OF THE POTOMAC BALLOON INTREPID ASCENDING TO RECONNOITER ON THE PENINSULA, WITH PROFESSOR LOWE IN THE BASKET.

believed the fort could be reduced. Jones Island is northwest of Cockspur Island.

A passage was opened between the islands and the mainland north of Savannah so that guns could be brought through and placed on Jones Island. This was done with tremendous labor, the mortars weighing more than eight tons each and having to be dragged over deep mud on plank platforms, most of the work being done at night, for the batteries were to be erected within easy reach of the guns of the fort. Their construction occupied about two months, and screens of bushes were contrived to conceal from the Confederates what was going on. There were eleven batteries ranged along the northern edge of Tybee Island mounting twenty heavy guns and sixteen thirteen-inch mortars.

When all was ready, the fort was summoned to surrender by General Daniel Hunter, U. S. A., in command of the department. Colonel Olmstead replied, "I can only say that I am here to defend the fort, not to surrender it." Thereupon the batteries opened fire upon the fort, and a bombardment of thirty hours ensued—April 10 and 11. At the end of that time ten of the fort's guns were rapidly reducing its masonry to ruin. It was evident that it could not hold out much longer, whereupon Colonel Olmstead surrendered.

Scene at the Surrender.

A correspondent of the New York Times, who was present at the surrender, described the scene as follows: "At the entrance (of Fort Pulaski) stood Colonel Olmstead, the commandant. He showed the way to his own quarters, having previously requested that several national officers who were approaching might, as a matter of courtesy, be desired to remain outside

field: 'I yield my sword, but I trust I have not disgraced it.' . . .

"Major Halpine, in reply, spoke gracefully of the painfulness of the duty he had been called upon to perform—to receive the swords of men who had shown by their bravery that they deserved to wear them. . . . As soon as the surrender was complete Colonel Olmstead turned to his officers and began making some remarks to them, upon which his captors withdrew. The American flag was then raised on the ramparts."

Yorktown Besieged.

In the second week of April, 1862, the siege of Yorktown, on the Virginia peninsula, by the Federal Army of the Potomac was begun. General George B. McClellan commanded the besiegers and General Joseph E. Johnston the Confederate defenders. From the 5th to the 8th, when the unfavorable weather suspended active hostilities on both sides, there were frequent skirmishes and firing by Federal artillery to prevent the garrison from constructing further defenses and mounting additional guns. On the 8th, 9th and 10th there was a succession of extraordinary storms of rain and hail, with some sleet and snow, the Confederates taking advantage of this weather to complete their defenses. Much work was done in the interval by the Federal army in making and corduroying roads to the depots.

The next step was to search the Confederate line of defense for weak points. It was believed that if any were found and forced the result would be that the enemy would, as is usual in such cases, believe that his position was turned at both extremities and his forces would become demoralized. A vulnerable point was supposed to exist about the center of the line on Warwick river, below Winn's mills and

one rope, and this had been weakened by having acid fall on it. A strong gust of wind severed the rope and carried the balloon westward over the Confederate lines.

A Runaway Balloon.

Federal onlookers were both alarmed and amused. The Confederates rejoiced heartily and planned to capture the runaway. Suddenly an eastward current of air was reached, and the balloon turned homeward. By pulling the valve cord Porter descended safely near McClellan's headquarters. He had seen more than he had expected. It was rumored in camp that some of the soldiers who held the rope had purposely set the balloon free, but this General Porter refused to believe. General McClellan declared that he would not permit other generals to make ascensions in future, but they continued to go up to the end of the siege.

The day after General Porter's adventure in the runaway the Confederates sent up a balloon piloted by John Randolph Bryan of General Magruder's staff. It was a free balloon and made a wide circuit over both camps, finally landing at home after being fired upon by Confederates who supposed it was the Federal machine loose again.

Another important event of the week was the conquest of the Confederate position at Island No. 10, in the Mississippi, by Federal forces under General John Pope and Flag Officer A. H. Foote. The Federal ironclad Carondelet had run past the Confederate batteries the night of April 4. On the 7th she was joined by the ironclad Pittsburg. With their aid Pope's land forces crossed from the Missouri shore to the island, and the Confederates there surrendered. On the 8th the Confederate batteries on the Tennessee shore were captured.

Denver by the council of the grand lodge, although the official announcement has not been made as yet. A referendum vote of commanders of the uniform rank will be taken to determine whether the biennial encampment of that body will be trans-

in past years. The alleged prevalence of an epidemic disease in Texas also had weight with the council. The people of Fort Worth had complied with all asked of them, raising the large amount of money for the competitive drill prizes and providing accommodations. This offer was duplicated by the chamber of commerce at Denver. The fact that there is a summer excursion rate to Denver made possible the selection of that city.

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It is easier to preserve the color of the hair than to restore it, although it is possible to do both. Our grandmothers understood the secret. They made a "sage tea," and their dark, glossy hair long after middle life was due to this fact. Our mothers have gray hairs before they are fifty, but they are beginning to appreciate the wisdom of our grandmothers in using "sage tea" for their hair and are fast following suit.

The present generation has the advantage of the past in that it can get a ready-to-use preparation called Wyeth's Hair and Scalp Tonic. As a scalp tonic and color restorer this preparation is vastly superior to the ordinary "sage tea" made by our grandmothers. The growth and beauty of the hair depends on a healthy condition of the scalp. Wyeth's Sage and Sulphur Hair Remedy quickly kills the dandruff germ which robs the hair of its life, color and lustre, makes the scalp clean and healthy, gives the hair strength, color and beauty, and makes it grow. Get a 50-cent bottle from your druggist today. He will give you money back if you are not satisfied after a fair trial.

WIRE SPARKS

Denver.—The Chesapeake Beach railway, into which the late David H. Moffatt put \$285,000, has been sold by the executors of the estate to the New York banking house of F. J. Lissman & Co. The price is said to be about \$850,000.

Washington.—The last hearings of the house "steel trust" investigating committee will begin Thursday and close probably Friday, when three ore experts will be examined as to the extent and value of the ore holdings of the United States Steel corporation.

Greensburg, Pa.—Awakened by the sound of two pistol shots, Mrs. Ferdinand Salvatore saw that her husband had been shot dead as he slept. The assassin had fired through a window from a ladder placed against the house.

Tulsa, Okla.—Eight charges of nitroglycerin were used Wednesday in an unsuccessful attempt to loot the safe in the bank of Red Fork, six miles south of here. The yeggmen escaped when the town's residents were aroused.

Columbus, Ohio.—By a large vote the constitutional convention Wednesday reconsidered the action by which it had invited W. H. Lewis, negro assistant attorney general of the United States, to speak before it on the evening of April 17, and sent the motion back to the committee.

Rheumatism Relieved in a Few Hours.

N. B. Langley, Madison, Wis., says: "I was almost helpless with rheumatism for about five months. Had it in my neck so I could not turn my head, and all through my body. I tried three doctors and many remedies without any relief whatever until I procured Dr. Detchon's Relief for Rheumatism. In a few hours the pain was relieved and in three days the rheumatism was completely cured and I was at work." Sold by Otto Grotjan, 1501 Second avenue, Rock Island; Gust Schlegel & Son, 220 West Second street, Davenport.

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"I suffered five years, with awful pains, due to womanly troubles," writes Mrs. M. D. McPherson, from Chadbourn, N. C. "They grew worse, till I would often faint. I could not walk at all, and I had an awful hurting in my side; also a headache and a backache.

I gave up and thought I would die, but my husband urged me to try Cardui, so, I began, and the first bottle helped me. By the time the third bottle was used, I could do all my work. All the people around here said I would die, but Cardui relieved me."

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PYTHIAN GRAND LODGE TRANSFERRED TO DENVER

Terre Haute, Ind., April 11.—The meeting of the grand lodge or Knights of Pythias in August has been changed from Fort Worth to